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fortune, which are nowhere more conspicuous than in the history of the hereditary nobility of Great Britain and Ireland. Sir Bernard's researches appear to have been confined within a narrow range; but they have made him familiar with many curious details which seldom fall under the notice of the student of history, and his new volume is scarcely less interesting than that which preceded it. His style, indeed, is the style of an antiquary, rather than that of a graceful essayist; and his attempts at "fine writing" are often of a painful and ludicrous character. Though his volume teaches, in a very impressive manner, the insecurity of all earthly possessions, few persons will have recourse to his pages on account of any felicity of statement in them. It is as a repository of significant facts that his volume claims notice; and no one will close the book without bringing away some new or striking anecdote, however much he may regret that it was not narrated in a more polished and vigorous style.

Among the families and individuals whose various fortunes are described are the Bonapartes, the Laws of Lauriston (of whom was the celebrated financier), the De Veres, Earls of Oxford, the Prime Minister Ward, and the old Countess of Desmond, who is said to have lived to the age of a hundred and forty years. Besides these names, all of which are more or less familiar to American readers, there are fourteen or fifteen other titles; and in all of the sketches the reader will find striking instances of the vicissitudes of fortune.

4. — *The Works of CHARLES LAMB.* A New Edition. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee, & Co. 1860. 4 vols. Small 8vo.

THIS is the most convenient and elegant edition of Lamb's Works which has been published, either in England or in this country, and it leaves nothing to be desired in respect to typographical beauty, or any other essential characteristic of a good library edition. It includes the Life and Letters, and the Final Memorials of Lamb by Talfourd, the Essays of Elia, Rosamund Gray, and Lamb's miscellaneous writings, with a few unimportant exceptions; and it has a well-engraved portrait. Few writers of this century have enjoyed a larger measure of popularity, or have had warmer admirers, than the author of Elia. His courageous life under the shadow of a great calamity, his genial criticisms, and his quaint humor, have given him a place in the affections of cultivated readers of both sexes wherever the English language is spoken; and it cannot be doubted that the Essays of Elia and some of his miscellaneous prose pieces will hold a permanent place among Eng-

lish classics. His letters sparkle with wit and good-humor, while his more elaborate essays exhibit the same attractive qualities in their full perfection, joined to a remarkable degree of acuteness and a ready sympathy with whatever is meritorious in the writings of both the early and the later English poets. His criticism was acute and appreciative; his acquaintance with the best parts of English literature was exact and comprehensive; and his own style, though sometimes affected, was singularly graceful and harmonious. In a certain quiet beauty and simplicity, no writings of this century surpass his best productions.

5. — 1. *The Miscellaneous Writings of LORD MACAULAY.* London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1860. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 395, 440.
2. *Biographies of LORD MACAULAY contributed to the Encyclopædia Britannica. With Notes of his Connection with Edinburgh, and Extracts from his Letters and Speeches.* Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black. 1860. 16mo. pp. lvi. and 235.

THE first of these collections is an acceptable contribution to English literature, both on account of the papers included in it, and on account of the light which it incidentally throws on the growth and development of Lord Macaulay's mind. It comprises writings of nearly every period of his life, from the versified "Epitaph on Henry Martyn," composed when he was only twelve years old, to the last product of his matured intellect, the masterly sketch of the younger Pitt; and it is divided into four parts, including, respectively, his prose contributions to Knight's Quarterly Magazine, the Edinburgh Review, and the Encyclopædia Britannica, and his miscellaneous poems, both published and unpublished. Under the first head we have ten papers written while he was at college, three of which are reprinted in the American edition of his Essays, though they are not contained in the English edition. Of the other early papers the most striking are two critical essays on Dante and Petrarch, which show much acuteness, and an intimate acquaintance with their subjects, and fragments of a Roman tale and of a Greek drama. The second division contains nine biographical and critical essays. Of these, seven are in the American edition of the Essays; and among them are the well-known papers on History, Mirabeau, and Barère, and the three articles on the Utilitarian Theory of Government. Besides these essays there are two very able and thorough papers in refutation of Sadler's Theory of Population, which are now reprinted for the first time. The third division includes the admi-